

Point Three



The Toc H magazine
February 1980 10p



IONA

(pages 8-11)

CUDDESDON HOUSE

(pages 14-15)

Point Three

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Letters and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT (Telephone: 0296 623911).

Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

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The cover picture shows the Abbey of Iona.

Photo: Sue Cumming



Toc H seeks to create friendship and understanding among people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Local group activities range from holidays for the handicapped and children's playschemes to arts festivals and even bird-watching. Toc H is short for Talbot House: the soldiers' club in Belgium founded by the Reverend 'Tubby' Clayton in 1915. Today Toc H provides opportunities for people to test the relevance of practical Christianity and we welcome anyone who would like to give us a try.

Members accept a four-fold commitment:

1. To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.
4. To work for the building of that better world which has been called the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points – to think fairly.

From the Editor

POINT THREE

Last October, I wrote in this column about the rising cost of producing our magazine and forecast that we would need substantially to increase the selling price from April 1980. At its Alison House meeting in December, the CEC took a different view and decided to hold the price at 10p a copy for a further year.

The decision of the Executive was not taken lightly, it was not taken on purely economic grounds and it was not taken on my recommendation. The whole question was discussed at length in the context of the CEC's earlier debate on the use of resources (see 'From the Director' in this issue). The general feeling of Executive members was that *Point Three* is actually – and very much more potentially – of great value in expressing the Movement's spirit and in deepening and extending our influence. They felt that it was wrong for purely financial constraints to hamper its development and considered that the Movement ought to be ready to spend more on enlarging and improving the magazine. I pointed out that any substantial change meant careful thought and planning and that we had time for this since we had already negotiated and signed a fixed price print and paper contract for 1980. The CEC then decided to hold the selling price for the period of that contract.

I have been asked to consider the ideas raised during this discussion – and, of course, any further ideas for improvement – and to report back to the CEC. In doing this, I shall consult as widely as I can, so please write to let me know your views. I aim to go back to the Executive by May so that final decisions may be made in time to start negotiating with printers by the late summer for our 1981 issues.

The CEC will continue to debate the use of resources at its 1980 meetings but the general pattern of members' thinking is already taking shape: *Point Three* is being set in the context of that general pattern. This does not mean that we should start to spend money thoughtlessly or to behave improvidently. It does mean – as I understand the CEC's thinking – that where expenditure is likely to lead to growth or the extension of influence it should be undertaken in faith that further financial support will come to the Movement in the future – as it always has in the past.

A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

Thomas More was born on 7 February 1478. His early wish to become a priest faded when his father withdrew him from Oxford and put him to Lincoln's Inn. (Though for the rest of his life he recited the Office daily and subjected himself to severe disciplines.) He was called to the Bar and in 1504 entered Parliament. His wit and learning made him an early favourite of Henry VIII and as his career prospered, his national and international reputation grew fast. In 1529 he became Lord Chancellor. He was twice married. His first wife Jane, bore him a son and three daughters but died young. He later married a widow, Alice, who became a devoted wife and a loving stepmother to his children.

At the peak of Thomas' career, the King demanded the annulment of his marriage to Katherine of Aragon so that he could make Anne Boleyn his queen and assure the succession. Believing that Henry's first marriage was valid, More resigned as Chancellor and in 1532 retired from public life. Two years later, he refused to accept the Act of Succession and was sent to the Tower. After 15 months, when the Act of Supremacy, declaring the King 'the only supreme head of the Church in England' became law, More was tried for high treason. He put up a spirited and learned defence but was convicted. He told the court he could not go against his conscience but trusted 'we may yet . . . in Heaven merrily all meet together . . .' He was beheaded on Tower Hill on 6 July 1535. (Less than a year later, Anne Boleyn was also beheaded on Tower Hill accused by the King – almost certainly falsely – of adultery and incest.)

St Thomas was not narrow or bigoted or gloomy. He warmly loved and was loved by his family and friends. He was a liberal scholar and a wit, the friend of the leading humanist thinkers of his day – including Erasmus the greatest of them all. His prose writings show his growth over the years. *Utopia* (1516) was read across Europe and can hold its own today: its vision shows a tolerance and liberalism far ahead of his time. Some of the spiritual works he wrote during his long imprisonment reveal the saint.

St Thomas More resisted all temptation to conform to a tyrant or to compromise with his conscience. He was faithful to the truth as he saw it even though that faithfulness led first to his imprisonment and the impoverishment of those he loved most and finally to his own violent death, unflinchingly and cheerfully accepted. His last words were: 'I remain the King's good servant, but God's first'.

What's happening in SCOTLAND?

Scottish Conference 1979

This weekend conference took place in Nairn under the chairmanship of Sheila Rowan Hamilton. The theme, introduced by three guest speakers, was 'Toc H in the Community'.

Inspector Keir of the Nairnshire Constabulary gave a full account of the neighbourhood work of his Force members, emphasising his conviction that community involvement — 'neighbourliness' — was the best way to combat crime and delinquency. In addition to these activities, the Force,

during their 'Open Week' had raised £54,000 for sharing among voluntary organisation and disaster funds.

Councillor Bochel spoke of her work as a District Councillor and urged members to involve themselves in local community council work.

Mr Frew, a Nairn social worker, stressed the need for voluntary bodies to work in the local community and outlined some of the many ways in which members could help.

On the Saturday evening, conference members met the Nairn District Council at a civic reception, followed by dinner and a social evening.

On Sunday morning there was a 'reporting back' session and a talk by Gordon Macrae on 'Toc H in the Future'. Conference ended with a Service in the parish church, which included an inspiring address by Revd Jack Millar.



Photo: Sheila Penny, Aquarius Photography

The Conference group between sessions.

Don't be downhearted!

by Leslie Morrison

Alloa (Clackmannan), now a joint branch, were perhaps fortunate in the fact that they were started at a time when the Movement was more of a force in the land than it is today (naturally, we expect some challenges to this remark!).

Started as a group before the second World War, Alloa was the offspring of Stirling, who at that time had a very strong branch. Not so many of the early members of Alloa are still about, but how well some of them are remembered. Bob Ormiston, who later became the force behind Alloa Athletic Football Club and also became a Provost of the town. Padre Wilson, sitting quietly with his pipe causing a smoke screen until some explosive comments were needed to stop a storm. Hugh McMichael, the blind pianist and tuner, who was always the first to notice that the clock had stopped, and who could take you for a walk all round the district and point without error to every place of interest. He could also produce the most enormous and the smallest watches from his pockets at any time. And many more.

The war held up promotion to branch status, but this came along a few years after the war ended, and Alloa went on from strength to strength. Meetings were strong, with speakers and debates on practically every subject under the sun.

Arguments raged, with members tearing each other to bits during the meeting, and then everyone leaving the best of pals.

At this time there were rather a large number of 'Toc H widows', as jobs were many and various. A bus for visitors was run every Sunday to Bridge of Earn Hospital and there was never a happier bus load of people. Toc H members visited patients who had no other visitors and then washed dishes in the canteen. Concert parties were taken there every month. And how they worked, racing from one end of the hospital to the other to give a double performance! Old folks had their homes decorated and gardens dug. A bowling green was made in one of the local hospitals, and with financial help from Rotary, a telephone trolley for the use of patients in the other one. Swings were erected at a nearby branch of Dr Barnardo's Homes. Library books were distributed regularly in the county hospitals.

Also many happy evenings were spent through contact with other branches. Inter-branch evenings on the bowling green were always enjoyed, even by those who did not know that bias must be allowed for! And what of the ever popular 'implosions', when Alloa would turn out in force for an unexpected visit to another branch, complete with food, and a speaker briefed in case one should be needed? All this, of course, was in the days when Districts were small enough to make such delightful visiting possible, and when every member could really get to know every other member. Sadly, these days are gone. The increase to Districts of massive size, coupled with much heavier

travelling expenses, has effectively killed them off. And Toc H as a whole has certainly lost much.

Sadly too, Alloa Branch, along with many others, began to lose members through death and removals, until the time came when it was felt that there was no longer any point in carrying on. About seven years ago a final meeting was called for the purpose of disbanding the branch and returning the Lamp. And then, a rather wonderful thing happened. Nobody is quite sure even yet how or why it came about, but by the time that meeting was finished it had been decided to raise enough money to buy a minibus, chiefly for hospital use.

And it has been done. It has taken five years and more, and five different vehicles, getting a better one each time (we hope). Now a 16 seater is taking visitors to Stirling Royal Infirmary on three days a week, with high hopes of increasing the number of days or extending to other hospitals soon.

Among other things Alloa are now giving the annual Christmas party to the local school mentally handicapped children, and are also on very friendly terms with their nearest neighbours, Ludgate House, which is the District Council's home for the elderly.

Alloa still has a long way to go before they can be satisfied that their progress is really working. But they are trying hard. So the message from Alloa to other ailing branches is surely clear . . . Think twice, then think again, before deciding that your branch has finally 'had it'.

In Brief...

● When Revd Edgar Wallace visited East Worthing (W Sussex) Women's Branch, he was given an armful of gifts for Clayton House, Crawley. These included a large rug (the result of a sponsored 'knit-in'), two other rugs, a cutlery set and £25!

● Last autumn, EC & Tower Hill Joint Branch joined forces with All Hallows by the Tower, the Toc H Central Church, to arrange a 'minimarket'. In the two hours over lunchtime people flocked in from the local business community on Tower Hill and stripped the stalls! Gifts, cakes, 'nearly new' clothes, bric-a-brac and refreshments found a ready sale. The total from all this hectic activity was £340, to be divided equally between All Hallows and the Talbot House 'Tubby Clayton' minibus fund.

● Parkhurst (IOW) Men's Branch have written to tell us of their involvement last autumn with a 'Magpies' project with the National Trust at Newton. While they were there, the Magpies joined a branch sponsored mini-handi at Carisbrooke High School and made what is hoped will be a continuing contact with some of the students there.

● The Toc H branches in Northampton recently organised and ran their annual market stall in the town. In little more than four hours of trading they were completely sold out of home made cakes, jam, chutney and so on. £80 was raised and will be used to defray the cost of an old folks' outing next summer.

● Northampton also report that they were invited by Radio Nene Valley, the local hospital broadcasting service, to sponsor a football commentary from Bournemouth on the occasion of the visit of the 'Cobblers' to the seaside town in December and to visit the hospital to listen to the commentary. Greetings with Bournemouth Toc H were exchanged during the broadcast.

● Welshpool (Powys) Men's Branch have just completed a run of 32 years without a break at one of their branch jobs — staging an annual party for the old folk of the town.

● New Milton (Hants) Joint Branch have written to tell us that one of their members, 84 year old Kenneth Jones, has recently raised some £350 on a sponsored cycle ride covering 539 miles!

'Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler.'

Einstein

An historic occasion for Hemlington Joint Branch (Middlesbrough)



On Friday 3 May 1974, five people met in Middlesbrough to plan for a Toc H development in the perimeter areas of the town. In hope, we took the name South Tees Group and in our enthusiasm planned for a progressive development across a series of residential areas.

Planning, talking and dreaming are by far the easiest part of such a development exercise. The work is harder, requiring patience and understanding, but after five years work, we applied for recognition as Hemlington Branch.

We start our new status, committed to the expansion of the branch, both in terms of service and of seeking new members and already some tentative moves have been made.

What of Saturday 14 July 1979? This was the day on which we received our Lamp and spent a few hours celebrating the event with good food and good friends.

Representatives from local Toc H units, some friends and all the members of the new branch were in attendance when Branch Chairman Alice Peplow, welcomed our guests and then handed over to Bill Barnes who had been leader of the project since it began in 1974...

The 'Welford' Lamp which was first used by Eston Branch and later by Billingham Branch was handed to our Chairman by Adrian Dudman. 'Light' was taken by Doug Finch, now of Pickering Branch, one of the original five.

Behind these bare facts lies an interesting story of jobs done, of new ideas promoted and developed, of members gained and members lost, of people who came and of people who left, of discussion and of disagreement, of tension and of joy, of faith and of fears; but the amalgam of all this is to be seen in this new birth.

Thanks be to God! We go forth in faith.

Last summer, Wigmore and Rainham Men's Branch and Wigmore Women's Branch jointly provided a strawberry tea and an entertainment for senior citizens and residents of a local Cheshire Home. The combination of hard work by all, the sterling efforts of a local dancing troupe and a gift of 56 lbs of strawberries, produced a sumptuous spread and the best entertainment the branches had ever provided. In the picture, one of the Cheshire Home residents receives a birthday card from Arnold Thorp.



We will Remember...

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In September

Gerda E H Bridger (Bexhill-on-Sea)
L Arthur Statham (Ashby-de-la-Zouch)

In October

John W Dredge (Enfield)
Thomas E Ford (Presteigne)
H Bryan Hall (Ouse and Hull District)

In November

H George Antrum (Bexhill-on-Sea)
B L 'Dolly' Connett (Honiton)
Dorothy Fisher (Shirley & Solihull)
C F 'Frank' Higgins (Beckley)
Jack B A Kirby (North Bucks District)
Robert A Parker (Cleveland District Branch)
David Rose (Dalton-in-Furness)
May Wiltshire (Barnstaple)
Mona Woodall (Guisborough)

In December

Joan Clarke (RHHI)
Cornelius E Oborn (Isle of Wight District)

Toc H Wendover which post he held until his death. Whilst there Jack served on many management committees including Alison House, Port Penrhyn, Dor Knap and latterly Cuddesdon House. His love of music, via his violin, led Jack to make valuable contributions to the Cotswold Festivals, where he helped to create fun and friendship.

Jack was a gentle man, generous with his help to all who needed it in any way, and will be remembered always with great affection.

HB

Last summer we reported the death of Les Dunbar of Ramsgate and Newington (Kent) Branch, at the age of 50. Les was widely known in Thanet for his charitable work which stemmed originally from his lifelong interest in Scouting. Music was important in his life and he served as choirmaster in two Ramsgate churches. For more than 20 years Les had been responsible for running big fairs in Ramsgate: he was chairman of the Phoenix Fair from its inception. His branch — of which he was a former chairman — miss him sadly.

A member of Walsall (W Midlands) Men's Branch writes of the gap left in their lives by the death last October of Bill Schaack at the age of 71. Coming here from Bavaria in the early 1930s, he served in the old Bloxwich Branch until his wartime internment. A keen photographer, naturalist, bird watcher and rambler, Bill earned the respect of all who had the good fortune to know him. 'He was one of the most genuine persons I have ever known . . . and I feel that he has been a legend in his own time . . .'

There could be no doubt of the sincerity with which Lymington Toc H members, at their meeting on 25 October, remembered 'with proud thanksgiving' John Powell who had died in a car accident two days before. . .

One memory recalled was when some years ago Toc H undertook a job of cleaning up Everton Grange before it was converted into an Old People's Home. John arrived in his special little car, with the aid of two sticks walked purposefully into the house and slumped down on to an old sofa: there he discarded his two false legs and let himself down to the floor. As he explained cheerfully, it was easier for him, scudding around on his bottom, to scrub the floor than it was for us to kneel or bend to the job! Thus would John exemplify 'making drudgery divine'.

As the result of an incurable

disease John had had both legs amputated. He also suffered later from three severe strokes. With amazing courage and unquenchable good humour he overcame these misfortunes with the devoted help of his wife Anne. Retired from an office job in London, he settled in Burley in the middle of the New Forest. Unable to endure inactivity he took up precision engineering, working with a lathe in his garage. From this he expanded his work into larger premises and gave employment to assistants, especially to disabled men whom he found to be more conscientious than most others.

In the last few years John's only spoken complaint, of which we were aware, was that his increased disability made it impossible for him to join the rest of the Toc H members in giving practical voluntary service to others. Yet he remained an example and an inspiration to all who knew him, — and to know him was to love him.

CP

Seaford Branch suffered a sad loss with the death last November of their Pilot, Revd Peter Dale. They write to say: ' . . . Father Peter was born in Birmingham in 1903, and trained at Nashdom Abbey, Burnham. He was ordained in Lichfield Cathedral in 1933, and served in several parishes in Longton and Burton on Trent between 1933 and 1942, when he moved to the diocese of Southwark. He and his wife lost everything in an air raid on London during the last war, when their home was totally destroyed. He served in several churches in the diocese of Southwark and elsewhere until his retirement in 1969, when he came to Seaford.

'Father Peter was an active Rotarian, and for a time was Secretary of the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians. He served on the Committees of several organisations dedicated to Church unity, and was Chaplain of the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary and Treasurer of the Ecumenical Society of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He was as active in his retirement as he was during the time of his ministry: for some time he assisted at St Peter's Church, Blatchington and he was chaplain of St Mary's House, Kingsmead. He was a member of Toc H, and we were very proud to have him as our Pilot.

'Father Peter had a great sense of compassion and humour, and was friendly and helpful to all. He will be very greatly missed, but we give thanks for his abundant life of service. His wife, Doris, to whom he was happily married for over 30 years, died in 1975.

'Over 120 people gathered in the Parish Church for a Requiem Mass . . . The Mass was followed by Cremation at Eastbourne . . .'

We give thanks for their lives



Photo: Scott Shaw

Early on the morning of Monday 26 November our good friend Jack Kirby, Accountant at Wendover for seven years, died quite suddenly in Stoke Mandeville Hospital. Jack's many friends and colleagues, particularly at Wendover and in Huddersfield have been deeply saddened by the loss of a good and faithful servant of the Movement and all our prayers must now be given to Kay, Jack's widow, and other close members of his family.

Jack joined Huddersfield Branch in 1934 and two years later he helped to start Rawthorpe Branch, in Huddersfield District, where he remained a member until 1972. Jack held most branch offices and was District Chairman, Secretary, and for many years District Pilot.

A founder member of the Hospital Broadcast Committee, Jack was for a number of years Secretary to this Committee.

During the war he served in India and Burma.

In 1972 Jack left Huddersfield to take up his appointment as Accountant at

From the Director

by Ken Prideaux-Brune



A glance at the Toc H balance sheet is enough to show that the Movement possesses substantial assets. A considerable proportion of these assets is in the form of bricks and mortar – important tools for our work but not much good for paying bills – but nevertheless we are, in comparison with many charities, fairly well off. We are the stewards of these resources and the principles of Christian stewardship apply just as much to the Movement as a whole as they do to each of us as individuals. What does being good stewards demand of us?

The new Central Executive, at its first meeting tried to grapple with this question. The question can be posed most simply as a choice between *preserving* the resources which have been handed down to us or attempting to make the fullest and most effective *use* of these resources.

Our resources are the result of the generosity of our members and friends over many years. Some would argue that we have a duty, therefore, to preserve this inheritance and to pass it on intact to those who come after us. This means that we must only dip into capital to a strictly limited extent – roughly equivalent to the amount by which we can reasonably expect the value of our assets to increase.

Others would argue that our responsibility as good stewards is to try and see that our resources are used as effectively as possible for the growths of Toc H and what it stands for. This means that we should be prepared to spend capital when the right opportunity presents itself, in the conviction that if we are seen to be making a significant contribution to society support will come in the future as it has in the past. We exist to transmit a spirit, not to hoard money.

The Executive is convinced that this second policy, making effective use of our resources rather than simply preserving them, is the only right policy for a Movement such as ours. The adoption of such a policy does not, however, mean that we spend money thoughtlessly. Nor does it necessarily mean that we spend more than we are doing at present. It means that exercises such as the review of Marks, which occupied a great deal of our time at this same meeting, become even more important. However, when the Executive is convinced that any proposed expenditure will contribute significantly to the growth of Toc H it will be prepared to make funds available.

The point was made forcibly during the discussion that in talking about the growth of Toc H we do not mean simply more members. We mean the transmission of a spirit – getting Toc H into people – and we mean the spread of the Movement's influence.

The discussion was a very important one and I believe that the principle adopted will prove of great significance in the future. In the time available the Executive was able to do no more than start what will be a very long process. The policy – important as it is – raises as many questions as it answers. Much of the Executive's time during the coming year will be spent trying to discuss how we can use our resources more effectively. Where will expenditure best help us to transmit a spirit? On staff? On training? On communications? On local initiatives?

I felt it right to share the Executive's thinking with you at this early stage so that you can play a part in the discussion of these very difficult and challenging questions. Please feel free to write to me with your ideas.

Welcome

The following branches elected new members during November and December:

- 28 – Thurgroft (Rotherham) Group (j)
- 7 – South Yorkshire District
- 6 – Redcar Group (j)
- 3 – Corwen (m), West Worthing (w)
- 2 – Crediton (w), Glen Parva (w), Harpenden (j), Saltford (j)
- 1 – Blaenau Ffestiniog (j), Cleveland District Branch, East Worthing (w), Fulham (m), Gwynedd District, High Brooms (m), Richmond (Yorkshire) (w), Sandwell (j), Stockton Group (j), Tower Hill (j), Wem (j), Wolverhampton (w)

A warm welcome to 67 new members



'Geoff', by Ron Ferguson. Famedram Publishers, Gartocharn, Alexandria, Dunbartonshire. Price £2.75

A MAN FOR OTHERS

The happy laughter of Gorbals children seemed to echo on a bare remote hillside by the sea as the ashes of their greatest friend were scattered to the wind on their late camp site. Earlier Glasgow Cathedral had overflowed with civic and religious dignitaries, representatives of all denominations and political parties, housewives, social workers, working men, and some who were more familiar with the inside of prison than with that of a church. Outside stood a silent crowd, many with tears streaming down work grimed faces, as the great affirmation 'Christ is made the sure foundation' rolled out in proud thanksgiving for the man whose life was built upon that foundation and who had died of heart failure at the age of 50.

Son of an Edinburgh surgeon, Geoff Shaw was brought up in a comfortable home and became dux of his school but he chose to be a rating when called for National Service. Later he changed course from Law and graduated in Divinity in Edinburgh and while studying further at Union Seminary, New York, he was appalled by the squalor of East Harlem just over the wall from the college. His experience working with fellow students there made him realise that the regular parish ministry was not for him. Influenced by the witness of worker priests in France and that of the Iona Community at home he searched for his own sphere which, with two like minded friends, he found in the Gorbals. The Presbytery of Glasgow agreed that the three young ordained men should try an experimental form of ministry and made them 'free to engage . . . in the total mission of the Church in the Gorbals'.

His complete giving of himself to the neediest people in what was then one of our worst slums led eventually to his participation in politics, and to his election, after an incredibly short time in Local Government, to the Convenorship of the newly formed Strathclyde Region. There his office and home were still always open to his beloved Gorbals friends in need, often to the chagrin of officials! 'The gap left since the man died seems to become bigger by the day'.

Frances Beeton

The Wider Family

Zimbabwe Rhodesia

Last summer, Cynthia Walker, National Chairman, unveiled the Tubby Clayton Memorial in the Toc H Hall in Umtali. Umtali Branch was founded as long ago as 1926. During its 50+ years, the branch started Umtali's first ambulance service and blood transfusion service and has undertaken a range of work for the old, the very young, the sick and the handicapped. During her four day stay in Umtali, Cynthia Walker visited the projects in which the branch is currently engaged, including their work in the town's probation hostel, St Joseph's Mission, Zororai, the Rhodes Trust and Lowdon Lodge.

Southern Africa



The picture shows a group at the 1979 National Council in Cape Town, during the Director's visit to Southern Africa.

India

We were delighted to receive the following air letter from South India:

On behalf of Toc H Palayankottai branch I thank the HQ of Toc H for Point Three. It keeps us in touch with Toc H England. The magazine is sent round for the benefit of the members. We also discuss relevant matters . . .

While taking 'Light' using the new (formula) words, we in our branch respond 'Let us bring Light'. It is necessary that all members may fully take part in the ceremony . . .

We are thankful for the visit of Mr Brune and Mr Lockhart. It serves as a new link with the mother branch.

We visit the hospital and the jail regularly.

Our children's home with eight boys is faring well in spite of many handicaps for want of a permanent building.

For the Christian charities we will be collecting some money from friends. New clothes will be supplied to some lepers and poor people.

We will have a joint meeting of the Palayankottai and the NGO Colony branches in December . . .

Susi P David

New Zealand

This picture records a unique occasion in Wellington. At a guest night attended by some 100 members and friends, three of the four men who have been Hon Commissioner in Toc H NZ's 55 years of life were present. Left to right they are Philip Liner (present Commissioner), Sir Arthur Harper and Arthur Burge.



BAOR (Germany)

Photo: Public Relations BAOR



England footballer Dave Watson hands out the prizes at a children's fancy dress competition at Verden in W Germany. The competition marked the end of a two week playscheme.



Photo: Karl Tietz (Army PR)

The GOC looks in on the Berlin playscheme.

Iona

by Sue Cumming

1979 seems to have been the year of the pilgrimage for me, since only a month or so after returning from Israel I was setting off again, this time bound for the north, towards the island of Iona, off the west coast of Scotland. We were a party of eight, packed into a minibus, along with tents, cooking equipment, food and sleeping bags. Most of us had some connection with the University of Nottingham Chaplaincy, but we also had with us a Toc H member and his son from the NW Region. Our main purpose during the fortnight was to spend a week staying in the Abbey on Iona, as participants in one of their open weeks. We also wanted to visit a few places on the way there and back — hence the camping equipment.

The journey up to Iona took us three days, the last of which was a series of experiences with ferries, where they seemed to be oblivious of timetables. Our arrivals coincided with lunch breaks or tea break (which lasted 1½ hours!) and it

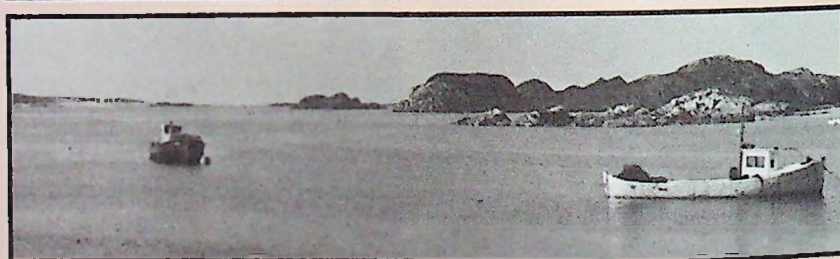
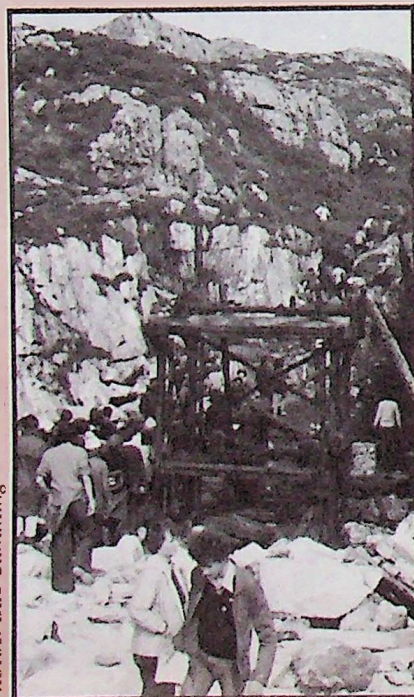
is most frustrating after a three day journey to be left standing on the jetty with your final destination in full view, only half a mile away across the water, while the ferryman goes off to have his tea! However the sense of arrival was marvellous, especially with the warmth of the welcome in the Abbey, and the welcoming peace of the island.

There was an enormous mixture of people, of all ages, staying in the Abbey. Our main theme was 'Paths from Poverty', led by Canon Charles Elliott, Professor of Development Policy and Planning at the University College of Swansea, and by Tom Colvin, a member of the Iona Community. It was a consideration of the causes of poverty and injustice in the world, and the Christian response at home and overseas. From the start there was a tremendous will to meet and get to know one another, and this was helped by the fact that staying in the Abbey means a participation in the life and worship of the community. So you were quite likely to find yourself doing the washing up with the guest speaker, or spud bashing with a Church of Scotland minister, or cleaning bathrooms with a Roman Catholic nun from New Zealand, or

cleaning the living room with a university don — not to mention all the perfectly 'ordinary' people like us who were there.

It might sound as though we were locked in serious discussion for most of the week, but there was a lot of spare time in the daily timetable for walking round the island, or paddling, or picking up pebbles and rocks, or reading, or making music, or simply sitting in the sun soaking up the peace and quiet of the place. On the Wednesday of each week there is a pilgrimage around the island, visiting some of the many places of interest associated with St Columba, who made Iona his base in 563 AD for his mission to the Scottish mainland and islands. At each place where we stopped we had an explanation of its historical significance but were also then led to reflect on some related part of our own experience of life and faith.

In many ways this sums up what the Iona Community tries to do — 'to relate the ancient faith of Galilee and of Columba to the needs and challenges of the modern world', and to provide 'a centre for renewal, education, community and hospitality to any who wish to come'. The Abbey is used by



Iona in Action

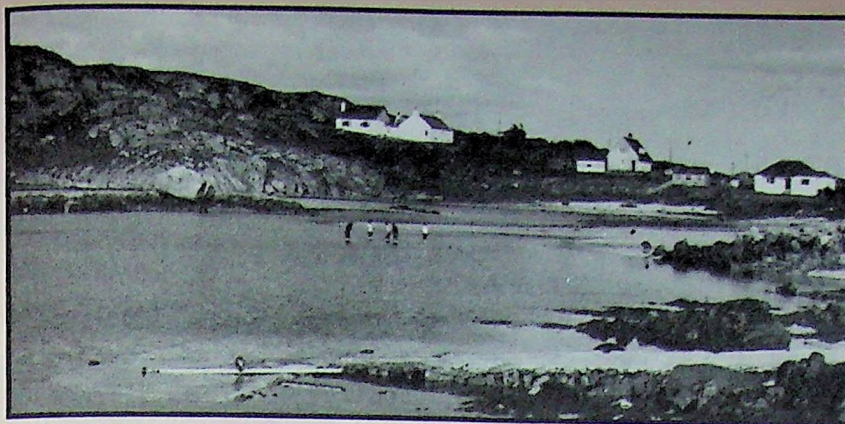
Some extracts from an article by Graeme Brown, Leader of the Iona Community, in 'Community', Autumn 1979.

The Iona Community was founded in 1938, ministers and craftsmen working together to restore the ruined Abbey buildings on Iona, and to initiate renewal within the Church of Scotland. The Community is now interdenominational with members working in many places throughout Britain and abroad . . .

The Abbey on Iona has always existed for the mainland, and still does . . . Those who come from the mainland to stay come to share a common life. They come up, to go back, and, like the tides which ebb and flow around the island, those who come to Iona can develop a rhythm of spirituality, can draw breath on the island . . . only to set out once more for the mainland . . .

. . . The Community has never been satisfied simply to accept that community living is for islands (whether actual, or in beautiful but remote countryside on the mainland, aside from city life). Both in Community House in Glasgow in the past, and now in the streets of our cities, members of the Iona Community have drawn together to live in community on the mainland. Both in Glasgow and in Edinburgh there are communities living in areas of deprivation and seeking to work out their obedience to Jesus Christ through the essentials of Christian community . . .

The Iona Community has sought inspiration from two very different periods of the island's history — firstly, from that of the Benedictines, who thought large, built heavily, travelled little, studied much and pursued their traditional monastic disciplines of prayer, daily work and hospitality . . . But, rather differently, Columba and his monks built simply, went out in two's and three's, travelled lightly and made for the structures of power. To this tradition look the Camas community of Mull and the street communities. On this pattern now also work the staff from Community House. Our policy is to put resources into people rather than into plant, and from our survival, to ask government for a sign of peace to the nations, namely, unilateral nuclear disarmament now, to promote education for the just development of the two-thirds world, fairer conditions of trade, more aid, and a jubilee of the cancellation of international debt owed by the poor world and of wealth distribution . . . Our workers seek to go where people are, rather than expecting them to come where we are . . .



different groups, and has a variety of programmes throughout the year, and is open to 'people of all persuasions or none, for all are welcome without precondition of faith or allegiance, provided there is room'.

As well as being a centre of pilgrimage, the Abbey is also a centre of prayer, and a regular work of intercession for the sick is carried on, both in the Abbey and by a Prayer Circle of intercessors throughout the world. One of the deeply impressive evening services was that of 'Prayers for Healing and the Laying on of Hands', in which we all acknowledged our need for healing, for being made whole, but also that we depend on each other as well as on God for this wholeness, whether it be physical, mental or spiritual, or a mixture of all three. Another of the services was an Act of Commitment, which was a very simple opportunity for individuals either to renew their vows — at whatever level they had arrived — or perhaps to make them consciously for the first time. Both morning and evening worship — the start and end to each day — was simple and uncomplicated, and entirely fitting to the place and the people, and the world in which we live.

All too soon the week came to an end — yet even that was a destination reached. Having been refreshed and renewed we were ready to go back to the mainland — notwithstanding the vagaries of the ferries — back to the part of the world in which we live, back to work, friends, families — to our own communities where we have a real and important part to play in our share of Christ's work in the world.

Throughout our stay in the Abbey I was struck time and again by the similarity of the basic aims and objectives of the Iona Community and Toc H (which is no accident considering the influence of 'Tubby' and Toc H on George MacLeod in the 1930s), and by how much we still share in common — in particular the lively spirit and warmth of friendship, co-operation, concerned interest in the world, and our commitment to exploring the challenges and demands of a Christian way of life in the world, wherever we live. I would recommend anyone to go and stay there for a week, and I think it would be a tremendous boost to many Toc H members to go and recapture this spirit in a new place amongst new people.

But if you can't get all the way to Iona, how about Penrith? On our journey north we had arranged with Penrith Toc H Branch to stay there on the first night, camping in the local scout hut. Our stay there really deserves a whole story to itself, but suffice it to say that Sylvia Workman and three of the ladies greeted us with such warm and generous hospitality — not to mention a fantastic five course meal — that the non-Toc H members of the party were really rather impressed, especially when they found that I had never been to Penrith in my life before. Add to that the time and help given us by Gordon Macrae during our 36 hour stay in Edinburgh on the way home, and I had found myself talking enthusiastically about Toc H more during that fortnight (I was officially on holiday!) than I do when I'm actually supposed to be working. You ought to try it sometime!

Mobilisation for Survival

by The Very Rev George MacLeod

Baron MacLeod of Fuinary, founder of the Iona Community and a former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, has had a long and distinguished career. He served in the 1914-18 War, earning the MC and Croix de Guerre. For the past 40 years he has been widely known as a compelling speaker, a powerful writer and as leader of the Iona Community. From early days he has had close connection with Toc H and is currently a Toc H President. He has based the following article on a major speech he delivered in the House of Lords.



There is a new movement born in 1977 in Hiroshima from a meeting between young Americans and young Japanese there. They were horrified to find that in Japan the bomb is known as the Christian bomb – and why not? After all, it was not started by the atheists in Russia. This movement, rightly claiming a growing membership in over 30 countries, running into many thousands of people is called 'Mobilisation for Survival'. In their own words they are pledged – *'To move beyond the rhetoric of disarmament to concrete action now. I support unilateral disarmament now as the only expression of Christian witness now consonant with the Gospel in the nuclear age.'*

We all know that non-violence is the very core of the Christian faith. The Lord said: *'They that take the sword shall perish by the sword. Ye have heard it said by men of old time: Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.'* But I say unto you, *'Love your enemies, . . . do good to them that . . . despitefully use you . . . that ye may be the children of your Father.'* Last year the Bishops of the Church of England at Lambeth made a remarkable statement. In it they called on Christian people *'To engage themselves in non-violent action for justice and peace and to support others so engaged'*. What else could the Bishops at Lambeth say? What could they do other than say it when we realise that it is the sole function of the Christian church to be the continuing body of Christ on earth; when we remember St Theresa, who said: *'Christ has no hands but our hands, no feet but our feet and ours are the eyes with which he looks out with compassion on the world?'*

Of course, to the uncommitted it must sound like madness, turning the world upside down. But St Paul knew that it would sound like madness when he wrote, *'We preach Christ crucified, to the*

law-givers a stumbling block, to the philosophers sheer folly.' But he went on: *'But to them that are called: Christ who is the wisdom of God and the power of God, because the foolishness of God is wiser than men and the weakness of God is stronger than men'*. By all means say that it would not work on a national level. By all means say that this is personal advice to individuals, not corporate advice to nations. By all means say that there is no corporate power in non-violence. If that is so, then let us leave out the last clause of the Lord's Prayer which reads not only *'Thine is the Kingdom'*, but also, *'Thine is the power'*.

We all know the history of the Church and of wars since the Gospel days. In the first three centuries, many were the young Christians condemned to death. Then Christianity became the state religion. Those who had been persecuted for three centuries were promoted, But wars continued, so they had to contrive 'the doctrine of the Just War'. In short, that was, as most of us know, that wars can take place among Christians if the end justifies the means. Thus for centuries, when wars were localised and confined to soldiers, this doctrine served. Perhaps the last just war was the Boer War, when Baden-Powell was surrounded in Mafeking. Both the Afrikaaners and the British were Sabbath observers and nobody fired from midnight on Saturday till dawn on Monday, because it was God's day. But the Household Cavalry inside Mafeking got so bored that they started playing polo on Sunday and, believe it or not, the Boers sent in a white flag and protested against the blasphemy. I am told that the letter from Baden-Powell, apologising and promising that there would be no more Sunday polo playing, still exists. As one of my earliest memories is the Siege of Mafeking one can perhaps say that in one generation we have moved from controlled war to absolute chaos.

Came the 1914 war, the first Great War, when for the first time military casualties on both sides numbered something like eight million. In 1930, the Church of Scotland said: *'If there was ever a deliberate attack on the civilian population – on men, women and children – then the Church must withdraw from the war even at the cost of defeat'*.

Came the second Great War in the 1940s, before the atom bomb; came Dresden, when we intentionally obliterated 100,000 men, women and children in an undefended town. The only soldiers in Dresden were men on leave. The Dresden catastrophe was designed to demoralise the civilian population, 100,000 of them being killed. There was not a cheep from the Church of Scotland. Such has been the rapidity of our social demoralisation about the ethics of war. Came Hiroshima.

Last month in Hiroshima some young invalids in their thirties died. They had been invalids all their lives and had contracted sickness when still in their mothers' wombs, when that bomb was dropped on their mothers in 1945.

The USA could destroy Russia 40 times over with what they have and Russia could destroy the USA 22 times over with nuclear weapons. In the last recorded year, 1978, all nations together spent £200,000 million or, if that gets you down, put a figure '2' and add 11 noughts to it. Is there anyone who disagrees with Pope John, who said that *'it is impossible to conceive of a just war in a nuclear age'*? We are all in the midst of unprincipled chaos. Believe, with Martin Luther King, that it is either non-violence or non-existence, and that means for a Christian country non-violence now.

Two Congressmen asked the President of the United States whether he was ready for the Russians. The President sat silent

as he visualised in his mind the submarines that they had then, and which they have now, all around facing Russia with nuclear devices on them — with nuclear missiles facing Russia from outside Norway, from outside Spain, from the middle of the Mediterranean, from the India Ocean and from outside Siberia, all pointing on permanent alert waiting for the word. Those were in his mind as the President said: 'I have only to lift that telephone and give the secret code to all our submarines who are on the alert for it, and 70 million Russians will be dead in half an hour'. It was the Russians at the Warsaw Conference who, in the early days, suggested that all nations should sign to the effect that they would never be the first to use nuclear weapons. Unfortunately it was NATO and the President who refused to concede. That was in the days of President Ford. We all know now that war is so precipitate that it is nonsense to suppose that Parliament could be called together to declare war. What the President said then means that we in the UK are consenting, without protest, to the possibility of waking up one morning — if, indeed, we do wake up that morning — to find that, before the enemy have fired a shot, we have killed 70 million men, women and children to prove the superiority of Christianity over Communism!

If we kill 70 million people in half an hour before they have fired a shot, then I personally hope that no young man would be such a damned fool — I choose my language carefully — as to join 'the Church as by law established', but would turn aside and pray for a new Pentecost.

The great criticism of the Church today is that nobody wants to persecute it, because there is absolutely nothing to persecute it about. When it comes to the showdown, it is the spiritual arm of the morally chaotic *status quo*. 'Crown Him with many crowns . . . the Lamb upon the throne' can only possibly mean 'Crown Him with many crowns, non-violence on the throne'. We sing it in the present tense, but we have not the slightest intention of believing it in the present tense. Tomorrow, perhaps, but not today. But tomorrow will not do.

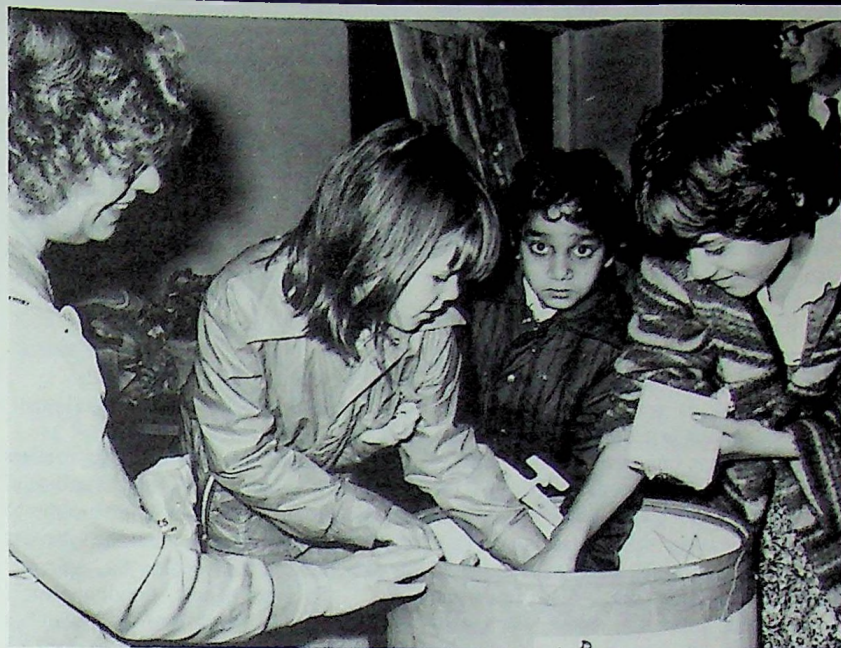
'There is one thing mightier than armies; an idea whose hour is come', said Victor Hugo. Wars will cease only when men refuse to fight. It can be done. The Vietnam war was stopped by 95,000 young Americans who refused to go on saturating the fields of Cambodia so that these fields will not bear any crops for the next 20 years. No wonder Cambodia went Communist.

Let us seriously start planning for non-violence now. At which point the reader may say — 'But we must be in a position

to beat the Russians?' To which the reply is 'But can we?' It was no pacifist but no less than Sir Basil Liddell Hart, the best known War Correspondent the London Times ever had, who wrote three years ago 'in a nuclear war, the phrase "pursuing victor" becomes utterly absurd. Anyone who talks of winning a nuclear war is a menace to his country

and to all humanity. To make Non-Violent Resistance a national policy will be an extremely difficult task. The most important thing is to educate people and convince them that it is a workable policy'.

So let the reader read this article again or be a party to the extinction of the world.



Eager children try their luck at Melton (Leics) 1979 bazaar which raised nearly £1,000.

Please Note

Make your money work

Some months ago it was apparent from an examination of branch accounts that many branches were carrying forward each year large sums of money and in many cases the amount involved hardly varied at all from one year to the next. This seems an extraordinary waste of our assets particularly in these difficult times. As stated at the recent Central Council, HQ will pay to branches $\frac{1}{2}\%$ above the rate paid by Building Societies to their depositors on any money loaned by branches. (At present the rate is 11%.) Furthermore the loan or any part of it can be repaid at a moment's notice. I would therefore like to think that, in the Festival Year, branches still holding considerable sums of money could see their way clear to loaning this money to The Family Purse, thus not only making it work for themselves but also the Movement as a whole. The parable of the talents was never more appropriate than in this case.

Oberammergau 1980

There may now be one or two vacancies in the party being organised to visit Oberammergau in July/August 1980. The tour offers visits to other parts of Germany and Austria and to Poperinge as well as seeing the Passion Play. Would anyone interested in a possible place, please contact the Revd C M White, 68 Thorpe Park Road, Peterborough PE3 6LJ (Tel: 0733 63686) as soon as possible for details. The dates of the trip are 31 July to 13 August and the basic cost is £281.50 plus extra for optional excursions.

Don't miss the Bangor Summer School 1980!

Place: Church Hostel, Bangor
Date: 30 June to 5 July
Main Speaker: John Mitchell

GEB Full details in March Point Three

Open Forum

SILENT NIGHT

I was most interested to read Alan Robson's Christmas story about the children's carol service in Berlin in 1945 (December *Point Three*). It brought to mind a smaller incident involving the same carol, *Stille Nacht*, at Christmas 1944, in Brussels where I was with 21 Army Group. The people of Brussels were most hospitable to British soldiers and along with two friends I went to a small party in one of their houses. On the stroke of midnight, someone switched the wireless set over to a German station and immediately the room was filled with the music of 'Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht' being beautifully sung by some German congregation. It was a moving moment and one could sense the presence of a bridge between ourselves and our enemies which wiped out the differences of the tragically stupid state of war which then existed. Hearing this hymn never fails to bring to mind that experience. I suspect that, like me, Alan finds the hymn much more impressive when sung in German. I can well imagine the circumstances of Alan's experience as I spent a short period in that grim city round about the same time. As a brother Geordie, I would say a warm thanks to Alan for this charming little story.

Les Wheatley
Cirencester

I was ever so interested in Alan Robson's article *Stille Nacht*. You see, I was German till I married here in 1944. But I have been here since 1933, when I came from Berlin on Children's Transport as a refugee. The article brought back such memories!

Now I wonder if you or Alan Robson would be offended, if I just point out two little errors in translation? I hope not, for I would not like to hurt anyone's feelings.

Thus, in the first verse, the word *lokkigan* should read *lockigem*, and in the second verse, the word *conferm* should read *von fern*. Do you see what I mean? Anyhow, I do hope you don't mind.

With best wishes to you all for a very Happy Christmas (Froehliche Weihnachten) and a Prosperous Bright New Year.

Rosemarie Britton
Bristol

FULL 'MARX'

I take it the ditty you allowed in last month's *Point Three* running down some aspects of Trade Unionism and the USSR was put in for the purpose of causing a

lively debate in the name of *fair thinking* for you must know you have many members with different views who take their politics very seriously.

Just a few comments if you will allow. Of course there are abuses, but because we have been brought up from the cradle in a capitalist orientated world, we should not be blind to the fact that there is a brave new world outside.

I venture to say that capitalism and its evil spawnings, including wars, have caused more harm in the world than any other system devised by man.

Fred P Bailey
Bideford

WORLD CHAIN OF LIGHT 1979

On behalf of the Western Approaches District I would like to say 'thank you' to members of the Family who came to St George's Chapel, London Airport during the 24 hours Vigil.

To most people, London Airport means crowds, crush and long waits; a place to be suffered for the sake of an overseas holiday or reunion at the journey's end. All the more reason then for us to be grateful to those who saw it as meaning something of deeper significance on 11/12 December last and were in consequence prepared to accept its inconvenience and cost to themselves so as to be there.

Our nearby Districts showed themselves to be good neighbours but it was particularly encouraging to have the support of members from quite distant parts of the SE Region.

We hope that the sacrifice made by everyone to be at the focal point of our worldwide family on that date found its reward in the contrasting stillness of the underground Chapel and the Fellowship we all shared.

Bob Stewart
Chairman, Western Approaches District

BISHOP NEVILLE TALBOT

The centenary year of Bishop Neville Talbot's birth was celebrated at St Mary's Church, Nottingham, where he was Vicar, on 30 September. The Rev A Inglis preached a sermon on his life and work.

Neville always said that all he did was to pop Tubby Clayton into 'Pop'. On the memorial tablet in the churches he is stated to have been the friend and counsellor of Toc H. According to Arthur Frymann, when Tubby visited St Mary's he remonstrated with the then vicar about his wording and said the memorial should have read 'Co-Founder of Toc H'.

Some local members of Toc H were present at the service on 30 September. Many of us are thankful to have known Neville and some note might rightly appear in your columns to commemorate this great good man. 'Behind the ebb and flow stand the eternal realities' seems to me to be the words of Talbot. Certainly they echo the man.

H A Derry
Nottingham

THE WIDER FAMILY

I read with admiration in the October number of *Point Three*, in the cutting taken from the Umtali Post of 25 May, of the work being done by the Msasa Branch.

Their various activities to so many various sections of the community are of great interest. But there is something I felt should be pointed out to those readers who are not aware of the background of the work being done. Umtali is very near to the Rhodesian border, which means that there are frequent attacks made by terrorist forces, which are causing great destruction and loss of life there. I think a tribute should be paid to those who have the courage to carry on their services to others in the danger in which they are living. I think they should be borne up in prayer that these awful conditions will soon be over...

Joyce Todd
Johannesburg

CHRISTIANS ABROAD

In October 1978 we started a fresh initiative to try to reach people going abroad as part of their normal working life. We wanted to offer to assist them by an introduction to somebody in Britain willing to talk with them, and to somebody in the church overseas ready to welcome them on arrival.

We wondered what response we might have and were grateful that so many people in management took time to consider our suggestions, to advise us and to tell others about us; and that so many within the churches were ready to publicise the programme and find new contacts for us. It seemed no time at all before we had 50 advisers in this country, recently returned from 20 different developing countries. We were ready for action.

As might be expected with the limited resources available to us, we have no great numbers to record. But the

considerable spread of contacts made has been sufficient proof that the programme is worthwhile. We have responded to over 30 people waiting to take up appointments overseas. They represent 15 different occupations — from businessmen to architects, from accountants to irrigation engineers. They have gone to 27 different countries, in every continent except Australia.

Enough has come back to assure us that they really have been helped to settle down. For instance, a bank official posted to Madrid and a teaching couple to the Solomon Islands have written of the warm welcome they received. A student on vacation work in Germany tells how she would never have learned of the very lively fellowship she has enjoyed had we not given her an address in the town where she is working.

The foundations laid in the first ten months can now be built upon, and with a full staff to cover the other aspects of the work of Christians Abroad I hope to be able to give more time to this particular programme.

David G Temple
General Secretary

Note: We published a feature about 'Christians Abroad' in March 1979; If you can help, the address to write to is: 15 Tufton Street, London SW1P — Editor

POINT THREE

I do want to thank you, however tardily, for the contents of the October issue. Naturally each one varies according to its appeal. But your Editorial was timely and inspiring; the news of the Old House breathed nostalgia and memories — my first visit to the then owner in 1927, the first World Chain of Light with Tubby; my month there as a steward in the 1930s; and the Hop Festival. Lastly Sue Cumming's telling and vivid impression of the Holy Land brought back memories of my own pilgrimage in 1963 as a prelude to ordination.

As a Civil Engineer (I still am!) I was Resident Engineer at the Menin Gate Memorial under the Imperial War Graves Commission. What memories your October issue revives! I joined Toc H in 1922-3.

Could you find room for a wee advert: 'Tubby Talking' LP free for any branch or member. I will pay postage.

A grand magazine. With every good wish.

Rev'd McGregor Pearson
Llangollen

LONG SERVICE MEDALS

In reply to Ron Bailey (*Point Three* November) I would first ask if he had read Arthur Whitby's letter, because had he done so he would see that no mention of a 'medal for long service' was made. It was simply suggested that members of long service in the Movement should receive a certificate or a badge . . .

Arthur, who is handicapped, is not asking for a medal. He has one: the British Empire Medal which Her Majesty, the Patron of Toc H, bestowed upon him for work he does for others. Therefore, Ron, please think again, and re-read Arthur's letter . . .

I myself have several medals including the Forces' Good Conduct and Long Service Medal and I do not seek any more. I have been a member of Toc H since 1925, and visited many branches in various parts of the world, but it would be nice to have a badge recording the number of years service the member has given . . .

Jack Gower
Heywood, Lancs

TOC H ACADEMICS

I refer to your article on John Wrigley in the December issue of *Point Three* and his highly individual views about his form of Toc H service. Many of your readers will be as surprised as myself that his interpretation of service should take the form of research into chemical technology, from which his labours have not been entirely unrewarded, in the

belief that sometime, somehow his experiments will ultimately benefit mankind and be a credit to Toc H. However, good luck to him and pray forgive my cynicism.

'Who else in Toc H feels this urge to study in their own discipline and make some contribution. . .?' Well, some of us like to feel that we have at least an above average knowledge and appreciation of the English language, and we in the Skelmorlie and Largs branches are showing our interest in the government sponsored Adult Literacy Education Scheme by tutoring and obtaining additional volunteers for helping educationally deprived people. There are opportunities particularly in densely populated and high unemployment areas, and those of you who would like to give it a try should contact their regional or district council offices or local library or 'On the Move' in your telephone directory. You may finish up by visiting a student in his or her home, or in hospital or penitentiary. The writer currently has three pupils — a spina bifida, a spastic and an epileptic (the latter now cured), all in the 16-22 age group, a not too difficult assignment for a retired member.

As for taking out Derby and Joan, I am inclined to think that most of them are already well looked after, so why not try your hand at the other end of the age group by helping disadvantaged people whose lives are supposed to be still in front of them?

M W Dawson
Renfrewshire

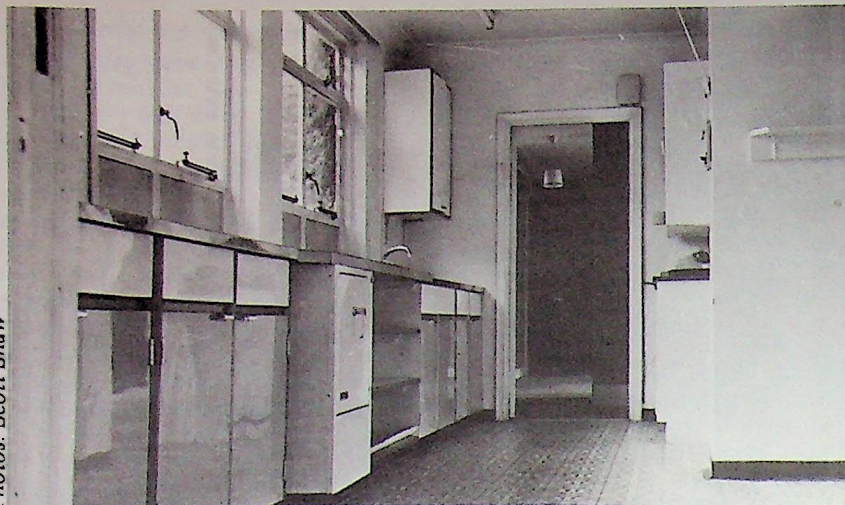


With all stalls doing a roaring trade, raised almost £150 at their autumn fair. Oulton Broad (Suffolk) Women's Branch

Photos: Ivan Gould

Cuddesdon House

Photos: Scott Shaw



A well-appointed modern kitchen will make washing up almost tolerable!



The graceful staircase sweeping down from the upper floor. Jack Kirby was a cheerful and willing model!

How it will run

by Mary Edwards

Mary Edwards has just completed her term of office on the Central Executive Committee. She was secretary of the Dor Knap Committee and has kindly agreed to help preserve continuity by serving as secretary of the new Cuddesdon House Committee.



Photo: Bob Broeder

Mary Edwards

Twenty years experience of running a Toc H training centre at Dor Knap in Broadway has convinced the members and leaders of the need of such an establishment. Dor Knap was leased to us at a peppercorn rental by Lord Dulverton. It was an old Elizabethan farmhouse set in the glorious surroundings of the Cotswold hills. It provided an opportunity for visitors to get away from the hurly burly of everyday life to the peace and quietness which almost total isolation provided, a chance to stand back from reality and view it more objectively, a chance to re-charge one's batteries — it was a place of renewal. The Toc H tradition could be experienced there and all visitors were expected to make some small practical contribution during their stay to leave the place better than when they arrived — by doing so, it is maintained, they would benefit too.

So convinced are Toc H of the value of the Dor Knap experiment that on the expiry of the generous lease it was decided to purchase another conference centre in order to continue the good thing thus begun . . . After a lengthy and difficult search Cuddesdon House was found. This modern residence which has

previously been the home of the Bishops of Oxford provides a marked contrast both in its setting and in the type of accommodation it provides. It is positioned in the centre of beautiful level grounds, near to the village church and opposite Ripon Theological College, and unlike Dor Knap, is very much part of a village community. Cuddesdon is six miles east of Oxford and therefore within easy reach of the motorway network to the Midlands, to London and the south of England.

Some 26 to 30 residents can be accommodated in a variety of rooms (a few single ones). There are two ground floor bedrooms with adjacent washing facilities. Nearly all upstairs bedrooms have their own wash basins or are adjacent to bathrooms. The house is centrally heated and a variety of conference rooms can be arranged. Catering for weekend conferences is normally full board (Friday evening to Sunday afternoon) but for mid-week conferences and for holiday week bookings the midday meal can be omitted or provided as a packed lunch dependent upon the wishes of the party.

Conference programmes are entirely the province of the leader but should include during each day a period for conference discussion and activity, a period of leisure time for relaxation or sightseeing in the locality and a period of manual work in the house or grounds which will be arranged by the Warden. There is a chapel (approached under covered way) next to the house for use by party members for services of worship or for quiet contemplation.

It is envisaged that, as at Dor Knap, Regions, Districts and branches will want to book weekends at Cuddesdon House, that some centrally sponsored weekends on themes of national interest will be arranged and that leisure weeks of music, painting, bird watching etc, will form part of the annual programme. It is also hoped that mid-week parties will use the house either from Toc H membership or from other organisations. Out of season (ie early October to mid May) it may be that groups of retired people may like to take advantage of a break from their normal routine and make up a party at the house. These can be offered at slightly less than the usual daily rate.

The work at Dor Knap has always been very well supported by the Friends of Dor Knap and it has been agreed that this work should continue in the new house and the funds of the former will be transferred to Cuddesdon House to provide additional items of equipment etc.

It is quite certain that the need for training centres in Toc H is well proven and thus the new centre will open early in 1980 with a firmly based tradition as its foundation and a confident future ahead of it.

Come and see!

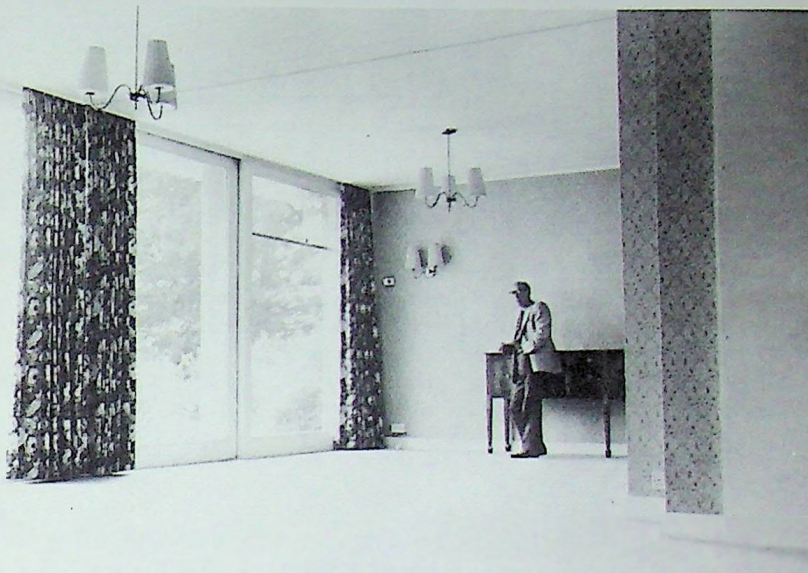


This picture of Cuddesdon House and its private Chapel does not do justice to the four acres of wooded grounds in which the house stands.



Photos: Scott Shaw

The chapel has stained glass windows given by Queen Victoria, Prince Albert and the Archbishops of Canterbury and York.



Four large sliding picture windows, which face on to a patio and give excellent views of the grounds, form almost the whole of

one wall of the largest room, which measures 32ft 6in by 21ft.

What is the point of it all?

by David and Clare Currant

We have learned to know David and Clare since they became warden and housekeeper of Dor Knap in succession to Tommy and Dorothy Trinder. They are looking forward with enthusiasm to continuing and extending their joint role at Cuddesdon House. — Editor

What makes Toc H residential centres like Cuddesdon more than just an extravagant luxury? For the warden and housekeeper this justification is vital and Clare and I have been asked to share our thinking with you.

Firstly the centre is a meeting place where people may come together to share



Photo: Tony Reade

David and Clare Currant

an experience: living and being together, working, playing, learning, praying. It should be an expression of the family of Toc H. For the membership a place that belongs to them, where they can feel at home; achieved with small residential groups (up to 30 people), basic comforts in pleasant surroundings, a family atmosphere (definitely non-institutional).

visitor participation in the daily chores and care of the house and, most vital, always a welcome. For the local community the centre should be an open door into Toc H, instigated by building up local contacts and encouraging regular use by local groups of all kinds. 'Special Interest' features may be needed to provide a bridge so that we can capitalise on these outside contacts.

Effective use of the centre depends on awareness and exploitation of its potential by visitors. Potential as a place of opportunity: to escape from the rut and seek guidance away from distractions of home and work, to meet new people, explore new ideas and learn new skills. Potential as a place of challenge: to Toc H branch life and personal lives, to social structures and social values and particularly to our corporate existence. Finally potential as a place of renewal: of health and strength when tired, of hope and faith when dispirited, of drive and purpose when disillusioned — only truly effective through a spiritual presence granted by Him in answer to our prayers.



Gordon Macrae presents a Toc H plaque to Councillor Bochal of Nairn District Council. The plaque is to be placed above the Provost's chair in the Council Chambers. These plaques can now be ordered from Wendover (with brass plate £7, without plate £6 75).

Festival Year Diary

Mid-Eastern Region has sent examples of their special activities for Festival Year.

Wellingborough Branch and District have arranged a mini-handi for early February; on 6 March Rushden (Northants) branches have a 'Thank You' gathering with John Forbes as guest speaker; on 14 May, Toc H House, Leicester will be formally opened by the Lord Lieutenant; on 12 July, Melton Mowbray plan a flag day, and promise 'to flood the town with Toc H information'. The same branches, in early August will mount their drama group project to serve local playschemes; on 20 September, Broads District stage their own Festival with the Director as guest speaker; Notts & Derby will set out the Toc H emblem in flowers at Bakewell and also plan a summer garden party to be opened by Gilbert Francis; Ashby will stage a full week of celebrations which will include: a Service, Toc H display and competition at the Bank Holiday Carnival, a wine and cheese party, a choir concert, a fashion show and a dance. The climax of the week will be rushing to London for the National Festival!

What else from Regions?

The Langdale Centre

The Langdale Centre of 'Weir Side' at Chapel Stile, near Ambleside, Cumbria, was the idea of Iain Fraser assisted by the members of the then Lakeland Area. Throughout the past 14 years, Iain, assisted by Dick Bates, has managed the centre on behalf of Toc H and welcomed a wide variety of groups interested in sharing outdoor pursuits such as rock climbing and fell walking. The excellent accommodation comprises a bunk room for parties of up to 12 persons, sleeping on double tier bunks with internal spring mattresses, blankets and pillows supplied. There is a fully equipped kitchen with calor gas stove, and all necessary pots, pans and crockery and cutlery. In addition there is a dining room and a common room and the whole building is heated by electric storage heaters. Hot and cold water is available in the ablution block.

Iain and Dick are now handing over management of the centre to a committee approved by the CEC and further information regarding the centre

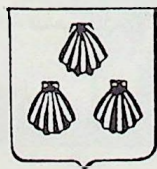
and booking forms can be obtained from Weir Side Booking Secretary, Toc H Centre, 24 Grove Avenue, Moseley, Birmingham B13 9RU. (Tel: 021 449 4668). Whilst it is anticipated that the centre may ultimately be converted to accept mixed parties, it is regretted that, for the 1980 season at least, bookings can be accepted only for single sex parties. The charges for the 1980 season are £20 inclusive for full weekend (Friday to Sunday) and £70 inclusive for a full week (ie 7 days) and it is the responsibility of each leader to decide what each member shall contribute. The centre is for self catering parties, though there are local stores where provisions can be purchased, or ordered in advance.

Whilst it is hoped that this centre may be used mainly by Toc H organised parties, we will be pleased to consider applications from parties which the Toc H membership can recommend to us and vouch for.

GLL

Small Ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 3p a word (minimum 30p) to Point Three Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Telephone: 0296 623911.



Quiet situation. Strongly recommended. Bed and breakfast only. Mr Jules Lietaert, Hotel Jacobs, Baliestraat 1, Bruges. 8000. Telephone: 010-32-50 3398 31/32.

Travelling to the Channel Islands? Why not leave your car with us? Open or covered accommodation. Free transport to and from Weymouth Quay. For further details please write enclosing sae to: Redlands Channel Island Car Park (Proprietor F W Westmacott) 369 Dorchester Road, Weymouth, Dorset. Tel: Upwey (030 581) 2841.

Weymouth - Bed, breakfast and evening meal. Weekend breaks £12.00, weeks from £35. Open all year. Bar, free parking, reductions for children. Small coach parties also welcome. Mrs Cole, Kirtleton House, 21 Kirtleton Avenue, Weymouth. Telephone: (0305) 785296.

North Buckinghamshire. For properties in the area between £10,000 and £30,000, please contact Bonner & Son, Chartered Surveyors, 12 Market Square, Buckingham. Telephone 028 02 2301.

Keen collector requires pre-1930 Postcards. Will make generous offers. Contact: Mrs Cook, 42 Forest Way, Highcliffe, Christchurch, Dorset. Telephone: (04252) 4941.

Christian friendship/marriage introductions. All ages. Nationwide. Also single holidays. Weekend house parties. C F Fellowship, Dept/B23, Edenthorpe, Doncaster. (SAF)

Raise funds quickly, easily. Superb ball-pens, combs, key fobs, diaries, etc gold stamped to your requirements. Details: Northern Novelties, Bradford BD1 3HE.